

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: October 16, 2020

COVID-19 Watch List

Today Governor Brown updated the County Watch List to include Lane County. Counties are placed on the Watch List when COVID-19 is spreading quickly and public health officials cannot trace that spread to specific sources (i.e. over 50 sporadic cases per 100,000 population). Being placed on the Watch List does not immediately change the current Phase 2 status of the County. Being on the Watch List does provide us the opportunity to take actions to reverse the trend and lower the sporadic cases. The Governor's press release said,

"The Oregon Health Authority continually monitors case counts across the state," said Governor Brown. "Recognizing the case increases in Lane County over the last two weeks, OHA has already been working with Lane County Public Health to address the community spread they are experiencing.

"There is no question that the spread of COVID-19 in Lane County is connected—to a degree—to student social activities. Social gatherings, like off-campus parties, are incredibly dangerous and spread this disease. Let me be clear, though: it will take the entire county working together to bring these COVID-19 numbers under control. Once COVID-19 is spreading in the community, small family get-togethers can also lead to dozens of infections."

"Counties are placed on the Watch List when COVID-19 is spreading quickly and public health officials cannot trace that spread to specific sources—creating a potentially dangerous dynamic. Specific markers of this rapid community spread include when there is a sporadic case rate of 50 or more per 100,000 people in the last two weeks and the county has had more than five sporadic cases in the last two weeks (sporadic cases are those that cannot be traced to a source; they indicate community spread). Counties remain on the Watch List for a minimum of three weeks and until their sporadic case rates drop below these thresholds."



“The County Watch List allows the state to prioritize resources and assistance to counties that are seeing the broadest spread of COVID-19. When a county is placed on the Watch List, the Oregon Health Authority increases monitoring and communication, and deploys additional technical assistance and resources, such as epidemiological support, case investigation, and contact tracing help.”

(The entire Press Release is available at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/newsroom/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?newsid=37575>)

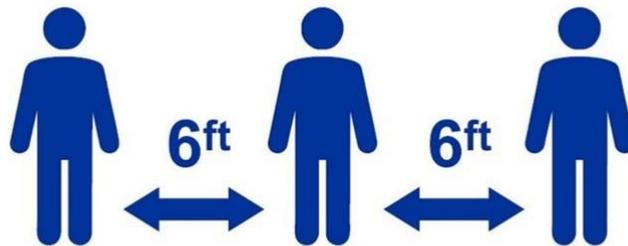
There are now five counties on the Watch List; Benton, Clatsop, Lane, Malheur, and Umatilla. Although being on the Watch List does not currently change our Phase 2 status it does place us at risk of facing additional restrictions or a drop in status if we are not able to slow the spread during the next three weeks. We must all do our part to help avoid dropping out of Phase 2 or facing other restrictions by **masking up, practicing good hygiene** - washing our hands regularly avoiding touching our face; **keeping our distance** and **avoiding groups**.



PLEASE HAVE
A FACE COVERING



PLEASE WASH OR
SANITIZE HANDS



PLEASE MAINTAIN PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING

Your Ballot is in the Mail

Lane County Elections mailed the November 3, 2020 General Election ballots yesterday. Most voters should receive their ballots by Wednesday, October 21st. This year there was a surge in last-minute voter registrations. Ballots for the newly registered voters will be mailed early next week, they may not receive their ballots until late in the week.

Voters who do not receive a ballot for the November 3, 2020 General Election can check on the status of their registration and ballot at: www.oregonvotes.gov. They may also contact Lane County Elections at (541)682-4234 to determine if they need to update their voter registration.

The Great ShakeOut

City Staff participated in the Great ShakeOut on Thursday at 10:15 am (or as close to the time as possible). As a part of the event and to document their participation staff sent the City Manager photos of their best Drop, Cover and Hold On pose during the 58 second earthquake drill. The City Manager will be going through the photos and selecting some winners to receive awards at the Stress Break training on the 27th and 28th. Thank you to everyone that participated.

It is not too late for others in the community to participate by taking steps to prepare for an earthquake. Visit www.ready.gov/earthquakes for more information.



Youth Advisory Council Meeting

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council (YAC) will be meeting virtually on Monday, October 19th at 4:00 pm. Any youth interested in being on the YAC who has not received an email about the meeting should contact the City Manager's office to get the meeting information to connect to the virtual meeting.

Trenchless Technology Magazine

Although we aren't on the cover and it isn't the *Rolling Stone* the City's Public Works Department made the news on a national level regarding the recent manhole repairs. The October issue of the national trade magazine *Trenchless Technology* highlights repairs to 15 manholes completed last year by Underground Technology, LLC.

Mike O'Reilly, a member of the Cottage Grove's Public Works crew, confirmed in the article, "Underground Tech repaired the worst manholes that had been accumulating toilet paper, solids, and collecting very high I&I (stormwater inflow and infiltration)," shared O'Reilly. "The finished manholes were like new or even better because of the bright white finish of the applied coating. Except for some drips from the manhole lid, after 18 months there are no pin hole leaks or streaks in the manhole walls."

A copy of the article is attached to the Friday Update or it can be viewed at:
<https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=59311&i=675326&p=68>

Because of the impact of the first round of repairs, the City signed a new \$49,890 contract with Underground Tech to repair another 11 sanitary sewer manholes as well as 111 vertical feet of repairs in various other manholes. Their specialty is to line old manholes with a product called Mainstay Composite Liner that applies a thick grout layer with a protective rigid layer. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. The repairs will reduce the amount of stormwater that infiltrates into the City's existing sanitary sewer pipes, ultimately reducing costs for overall operations and maintenance at the City's wastewater treatment plant.

League of Oregon Cities Conference

The League of Oregon Cities held their annual conference this week. Our own Council President Jake Boone presided at the conference as the League President. It was sad (and a little uncomfortable) to sit and spend 2 days wearing headphones and staring at the screen during for the conference (I feel sorry for school children and their digital classes) but it was very worthwhile. The benefit of the digital conference is that I have been able to go back and re-listen to sessions. Congratulations to President Boone for a successful conference.

Flu Shots

White Bird will be holding a free Flu Shot Clinic on Friday, October 23rd at the Community Center/Library parking lot located at 700 E Gibbs Ave. The clinic will run from 3:00 to 7:00 pm to accommodate working families' schedules. Volunteers are needed to help coordinate and organize on the day of the clinic. To volunteer, please contact Community Coordinator, Teresa Cowan at (541)942-1185 ext 2.

Quote of the Week:

“All the things of the universe are perfect miracles, each as profound as any.”

~ Walt Whitman~